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SOURCE Chuganbo [Organ of the Korean Labor Party], No 2, 1950.DISCUSSES CENTRAL CONTROL OF KOREAN LABOR PARTY

For our party to execute its responsibilities and to guide the public properly, we must have a centralized party rule, party discipline, party congress, and a central committee as the directing agency. Our organization is based on the principle of democratic centralism, whereby the minority obeys the majority, the local units obey the central authority, and the lower level obeys the higher level of the organization. Since the party's illegal existence is no longer necessary and it now functions legally and publicly, the party must be organized by a normal elective procedure.

The covenant of the Korean Labor Party prescribes that:

1. The party's upper hierarchy must be elected by the lower hierarchy.
2. The minority must conform to the majority decision when deciding the affairs of the party.
3. Party units and individual members must obey the decisions of the Central Committee and the instructions of superior officers.
4. Superior officers always direct and supervise the tasks of subordinate officers.

As indicated above, our party demands centralism, in both organization and direction. Centralism means that complete directive power with regard to party affairs is concentrated in a single center, namely, the Central Committee, which is elected at the all-party congress. Establishing centralized power in the party is not easy. It is realized only through the complete elimination of factionalism, sectionalism, and egoism.

It is well known that in North Korea after the 15 August (1945) liberation, one segment of the party, with no experience in party activities or of obeying and cooperating with superiors, attempted to perpetuate its autonomy by retaining control of certain areas. These people were permeated with the idea of egoism, the idea that "there is no one better than I in this universe."

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Thus, from the beginning of the founding of the North Korean branch of the Labor Party, the struggle for party unity has been hindered by the selfish struggle for power among the liberals, egoists, factionalists, etc. Also, there were cases where party units carelessly admitted into the membership pro-Japanese elements and those whose aim was to separate the party from the public. Such elements, who eventually penetrated the top levels of the party, attempted in various ways to confuse the party line. These people did not even obey the commands of their superiors.

Great changes in the party occurred after Comrade Kim Il-song took over the task of directing the party and, after December 1945, when a large-scale purge in the party began. Measures were adopted to eliminate those elements in the party not supporting its political, ideological, or organization policy. These measures were aimed at promoting superior members to the fore of the party hierarchy, while waging a determined fight against those motivated by self-interest and local patronage. The objective was to establish complete unity and integrity from the innermost circles to the outermost reaches of the party. These fights were continued even after the merger of the North Korean Communist Party with the New People's Party and formation of the North Korean Labor Party. Our party has now overcome all these difficulties and has become strong.

Aside from the Korean Labor Party, there are many other organized groups for the working class. There are trade unions, farmers' unions, young men's unions, women's unions, cooperatives, and numerous others. Each of these organized bodies pursues its own particular purpose and function, but have in common a supreme goal and direction. As Stalin once said, the workers' party occupies the central position in determining the purpose and general direction of these various organizations in carrying out their functions. "The workers' party possesses all the necessary qualifications for this task. First, the party has close contact with proletarian groups and is the meeting point of the leaders of these groups. Second, the party as the meeting point of advanced elements of the working class is the best school for training and influencing the leaders who control various organizations. Third, the party, as the best school for these leaders, can appropriately centralize and consolidate the proletarian struggle under a single authority. It thus follows that the workers' party is the only appropriate organization that can bind together and lead these numerous working groups toward a desired goal." (Stalin)

Our labor party, as a vanguard of the working masses, is also the most influential member of the Democratic Front for Unification of the Fatherland. It is a first-line political party as well as the foremost labor party leading the nation in a democratic reconstruction.

The Korean Labor Party units which are working the newly liberated South must gather a much larger public around them to strengthen their position. To this end they must expand their public activities in order to assimilate the popular organizations into our party. The party members who are either outside or inside political, social, or cultural organizations must strive to become integral parts of these organizations so as to unite them politically and ideologically. Only competent agents should be sent to each of such organizations for the purpose of assimilation and prevention of alienation of the party from these organizations. Each staff member must enter into close relations with the public by siding with them, upholding the importance of the public interest, and should obtain public confidence by solving, at the right time, all political, economic and day-to-day problems which confront the public.

Our agents should also make the public understand that only the labor party is capable of fighting for the interests of their class, that we are their greatest friend, and that only we can lead them to a victory. Only thus is it possible to bind the millions of the unorganized masses around the party.

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